

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0595

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0425

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, UY

SUBJ: EX-CGTU OFFICER ARRESTED: ALLEGEDLY SPIED FOR COMMUNISTS

REFS: (A) 75 MONTEVIDEO 4406, (B) MONTEVIDEO 0019,  
(C) MEMCON DTD JANUARY 13, 1976, (D) MEMCON DTD  
DECEMBER 10, 1975, (D) MEMCON DTD JUNE 10, 1975.

1. SUMMARY. THE GOU ANNOUNCED THE DETENTION OF RICARDO SOMOZA, FORMER CGTU LEADER AND TRADE UNION ACTIVIST. THE JOINT FORCES COMMUNIQUE ISSUED JANUARY 31 SAID SOMOZA WAS A PAID AGENT OF THE PCU. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO A JOINT FORCES COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 1, RICARDO SOMOZA, FORMER SECRETARY FOR ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFEDERACION GENERAL DE TRABAJADORES DEL URUGUAY (CGTU), HAS BEEN ARRESTED. SOMOZA IS ACCUSED OF ACTING AS A PAID AGENT FOR THE PCU WHILE DEVELOPING ACTIVITIES IN NON-COMMUNIST UNIONS, THE CGTU, THE FEDERATION OF COMMERCIAL, CLERICAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS (FIET), AND THE INTER-AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS (ORIT).

3. SOMOZA, WHO RECENTLY RESIGNED HIS POSITION IN THE CGTU WHEN HE MOVED TO AN INTERIOR TOWN, ALLEGEDLY BECAME A PAID INFORMER FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN 1971. HE IS ACCUSED  
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OF HAVING MADE NUMEROUS CONTACTS WITH NON-COMMUNIST LABOR

FIGURES, OFFICERS OF THE JOINT FORCES, AND A COUNCILLOR OF STATE. LATELY HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN RADIO BROADCASTING AND, WITH JULIO GURIDI AND LUIS MICHELINI, WRITING FOR AN INFREQUENTLY APPEARING JOURNAL, INTEGRACION. THE PUBLICATION IS DIRECTED BY JUAN SQUADRONI, A RABID ANTI-COMMUNIST. THE FORMER TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE ALSO ARRESTED AS PAID PCU AGENTS.

4. COMMENT: SOMOZA IS KNOWN IN LABOR CIRCLES FOR HIS ORGANIZATIONAL AND POLITICAL EXPERTISE RATHER THAN FOR HIS LEADERSHIP ABILITY, AND IT IS WIDELY KNOWN THAT HE HAD AT ONE TIME BEEN CLOSE TO THE COMMUNISTS. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE NON-COMMUNIST LABOR MOVEMENT FOR HIS ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITIES WHICH WERE BADLY NEEDED DURING THE 1974 REORGANIZATION OF THE NON-COMMUNIST LABOR CONFEDERATION.

5.

5. MILITARY OFFICERS CLOSE TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT EXPRESSED, OVER A YEAR AGO, THEIR BITTER OPPOSITION TO SOMOZA'S PRESENCE IN THE CGTU. THEY WENT SO FAR AS TO DEMAND THAT THE ORGANIZATION OUST HIM FROM HIS POST. NEVERTHELESS, EVEN UNDER THIS MILITARY PRESSURE, THE DEMAND WAS REFUSED. SOMOZA, WHO CLAIMED THAT HE WAS NEVER A COMMUNIST, SAID HE WAS ACTUALLY A DOUBLE AGENT, A POLICE INFORMER. A FEW MONTHS AGO HE TOLD THE LABOR ATTACHE THAT HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF "BURNED" WITH NOWHERE FURTHER TO GO IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT. HE FURTHER ADMITTED THAT HE HAD MADE MANY MISTAKES IN HIS YOUTH BUT THAT NOW HE WAS MORE MATURE AND HAD A BETTER IDEA OF WHERE HE WANTED TO GO POLITICALLY. HE WAS LATELY CLAIMING TO BE A DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST.

6. A WELL-PLACED SOURCE IN THE CGTU SAID IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT THE GOU WAS DREDGING UP OLD INFORMATION AND THAT SOMOZA IN RECENT YEARS HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE COMMUNISTS. HE CLAIMED THAT MANY PERSONS HAD AS MUCH CONTACT WITH THE COMMUNISTS AS SOMOZA, BUT SINCE THE LATTER WAS INVOLVED WITH THE CGTU AND WITH THE LABOR MOVEMENT, THE GOVERNMENT FOUND IT USEFUL TO EXPLOIT HIS PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES. THIS SAME SOURCE WAS OF THE OPINION THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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SOMOZA HAD OVER THE YEARS NEVER DEFINED HIS POLITICAL ORIENTATION. FINALLY, HE SAID IT WAS RIDICULOUS TO IMAGINE THAT ANYONE WOULD DO THE THINGS SOMOZA WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE DONE FOR THE PALTRY SUM OF 100,000 PESOS PER MONTH.

7. SOMOZA WILL MOST LIKELY BE TRIED IN SECRET BY A MILITARY COURT. SIRACUSA

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## Message Attributes

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